



Older Driver Law Enforcement Workshop

Cognition

"Mrs. Johnson"

Purpose

To provide the knowledge to effectively **interact** with older drivers and take **proper** and **appropriate** enforcement actions



Objectives

- **Understanding how the aging process affects older drivers.**
- **Awareness of effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.**
- **Knowing the appropriate referral options available for older drivers.**

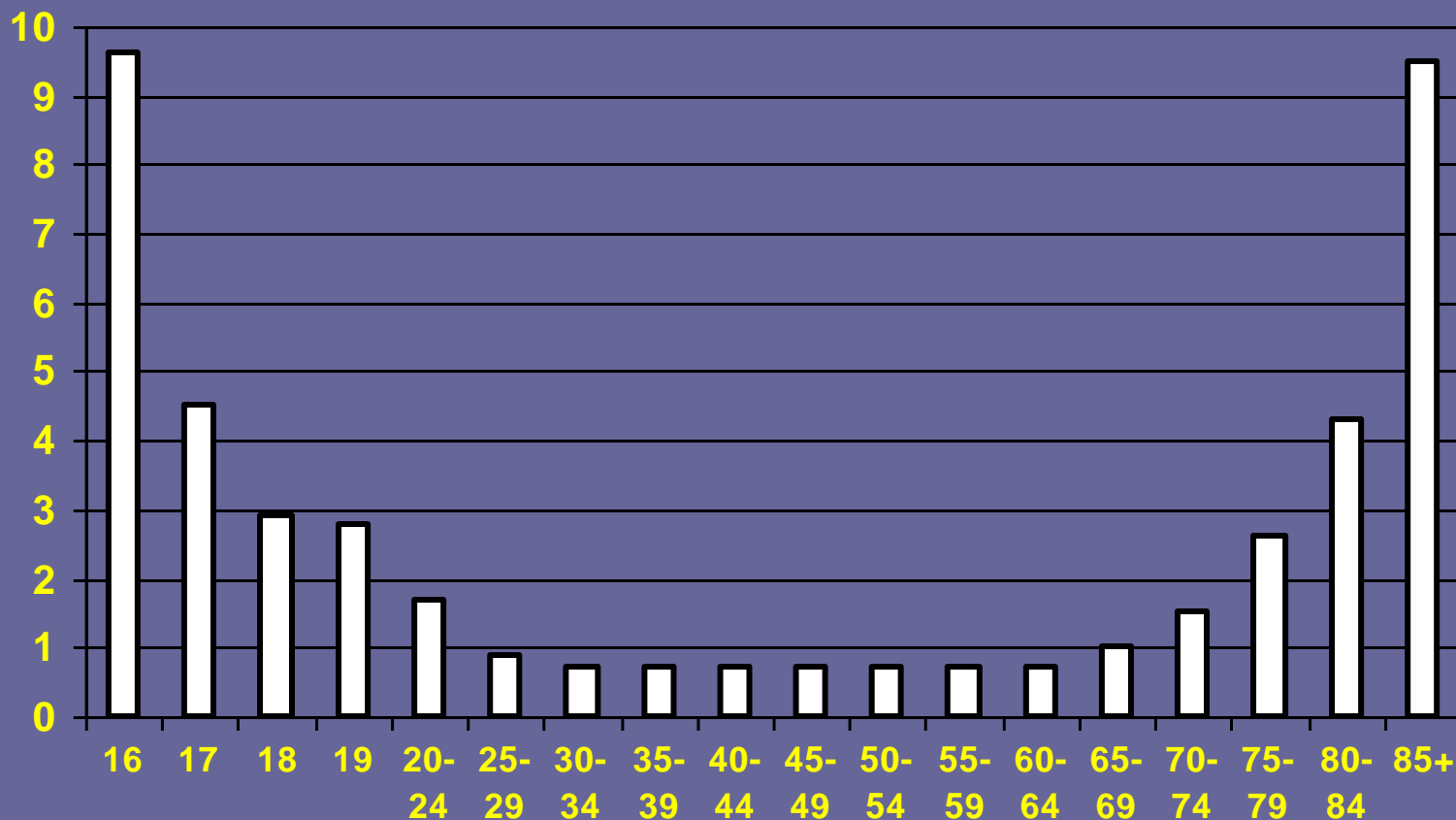


Older Driver Numbers

- Older Drivers are defined as those 65 and older
- In 2005, there were:
 - 36 Million older people
 - 29 Million licensed older drivers
 - 800,000 crash-involved older drivers
 - 150,000 injury-crash-involved older drivers
 - 6,215 fatality-involved older drivers

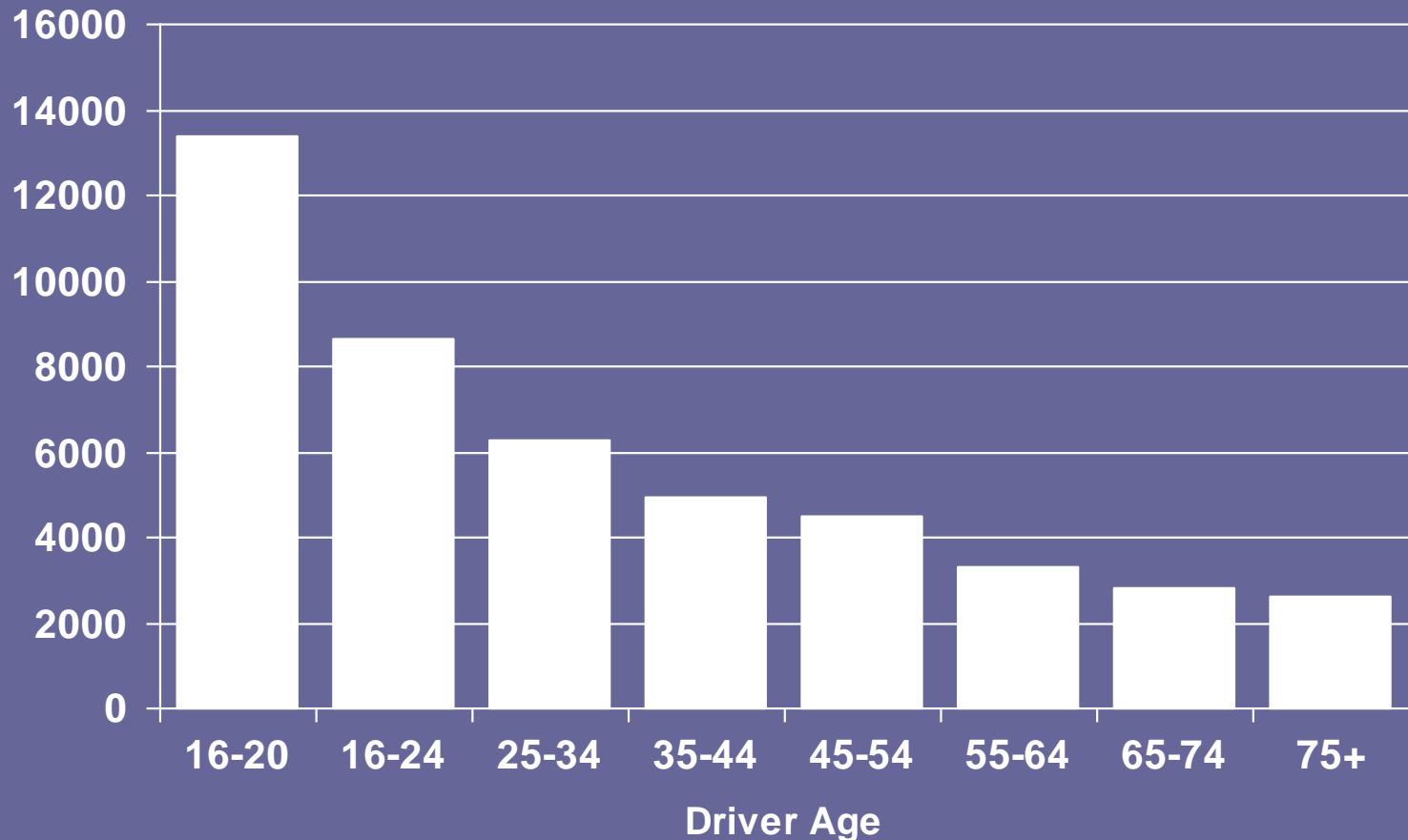


Driver Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)



Crashes per Licensed Driver

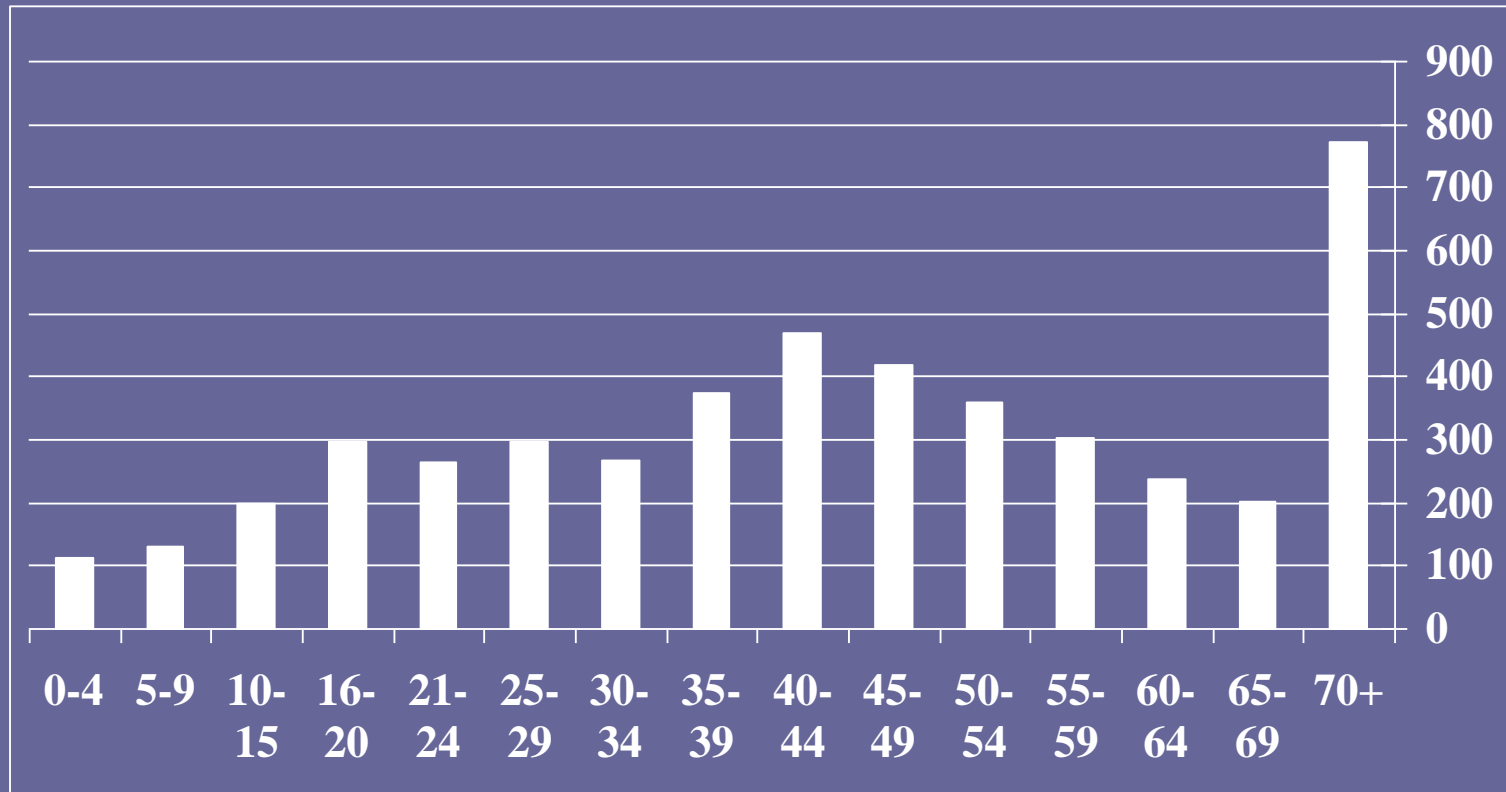
Crashes per 100,000 drivers



(Source NCSA, 2005)



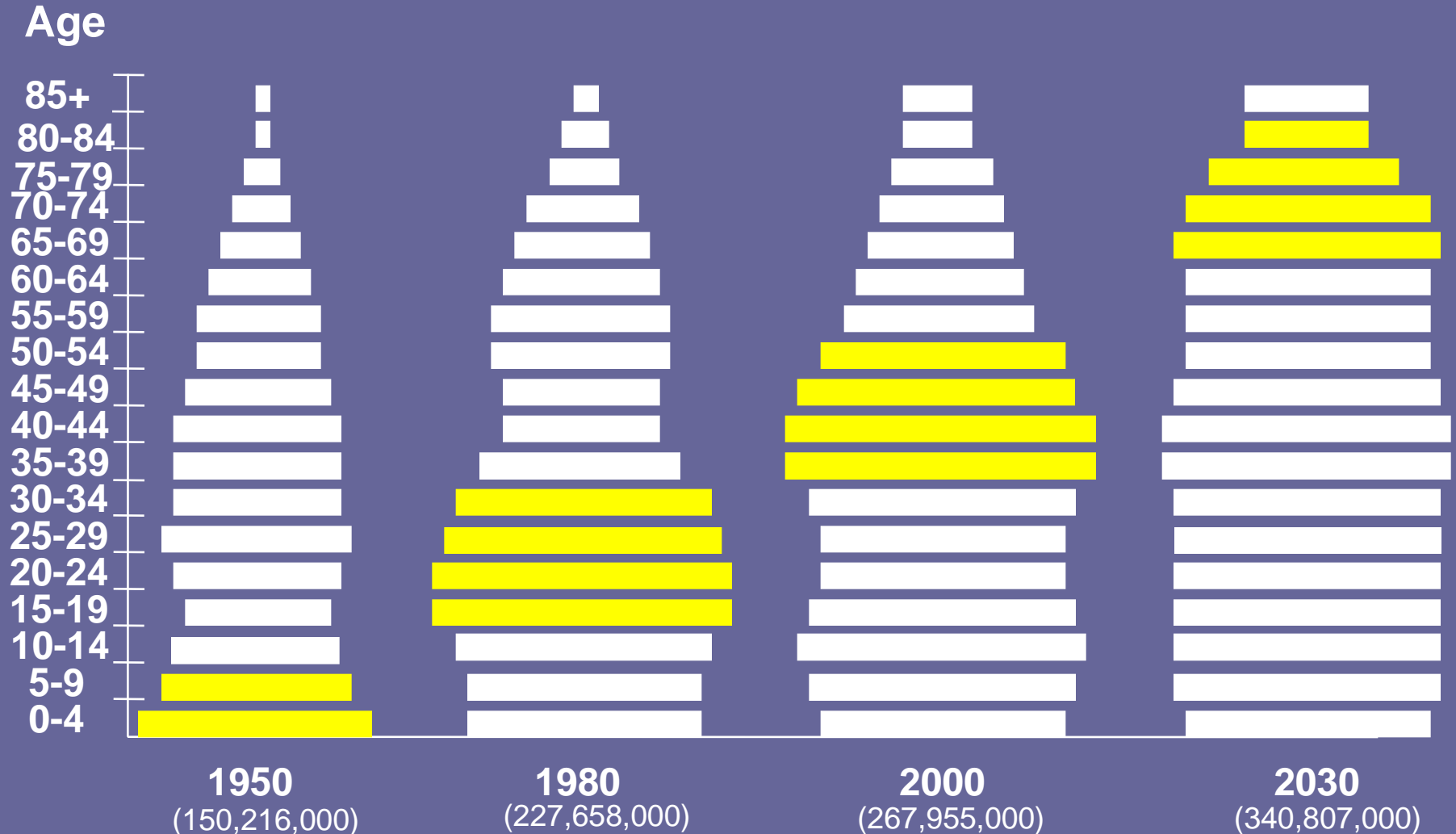
Pedestrian Fatalities by Age



Source NCSA, 2004

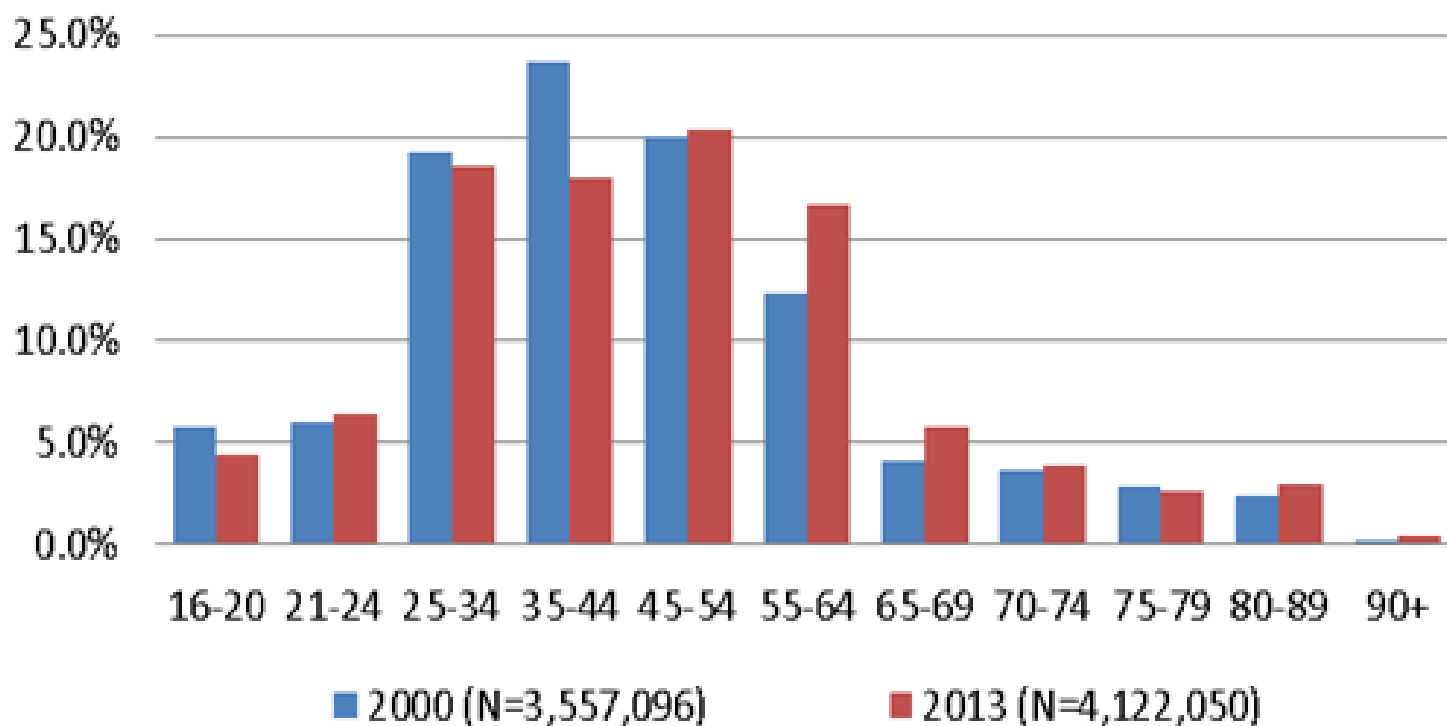
US Population By Segment

(Squaring the U.S. Population Pyramid 1950-2030)



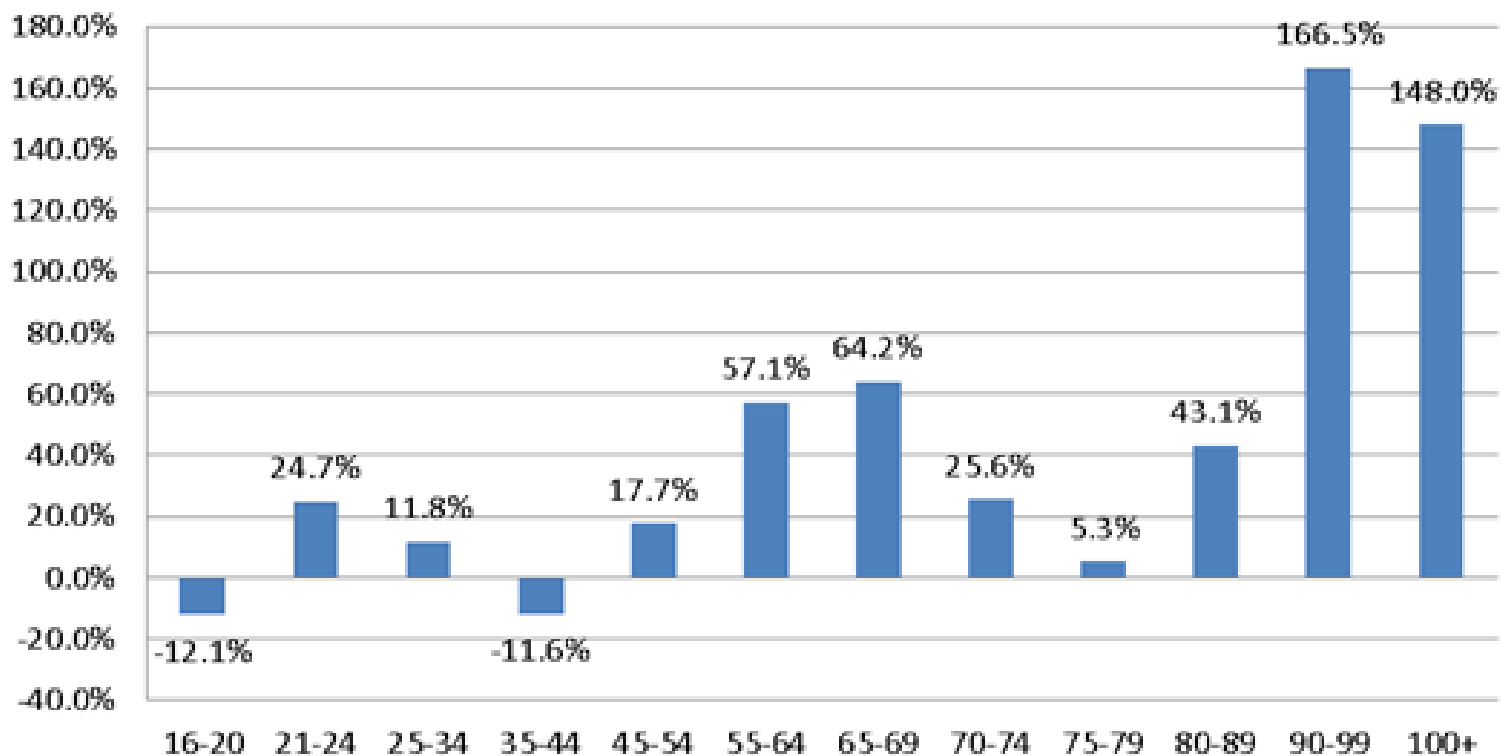


Maryland Licensed Driving Population By age: 2000 compared to 2013



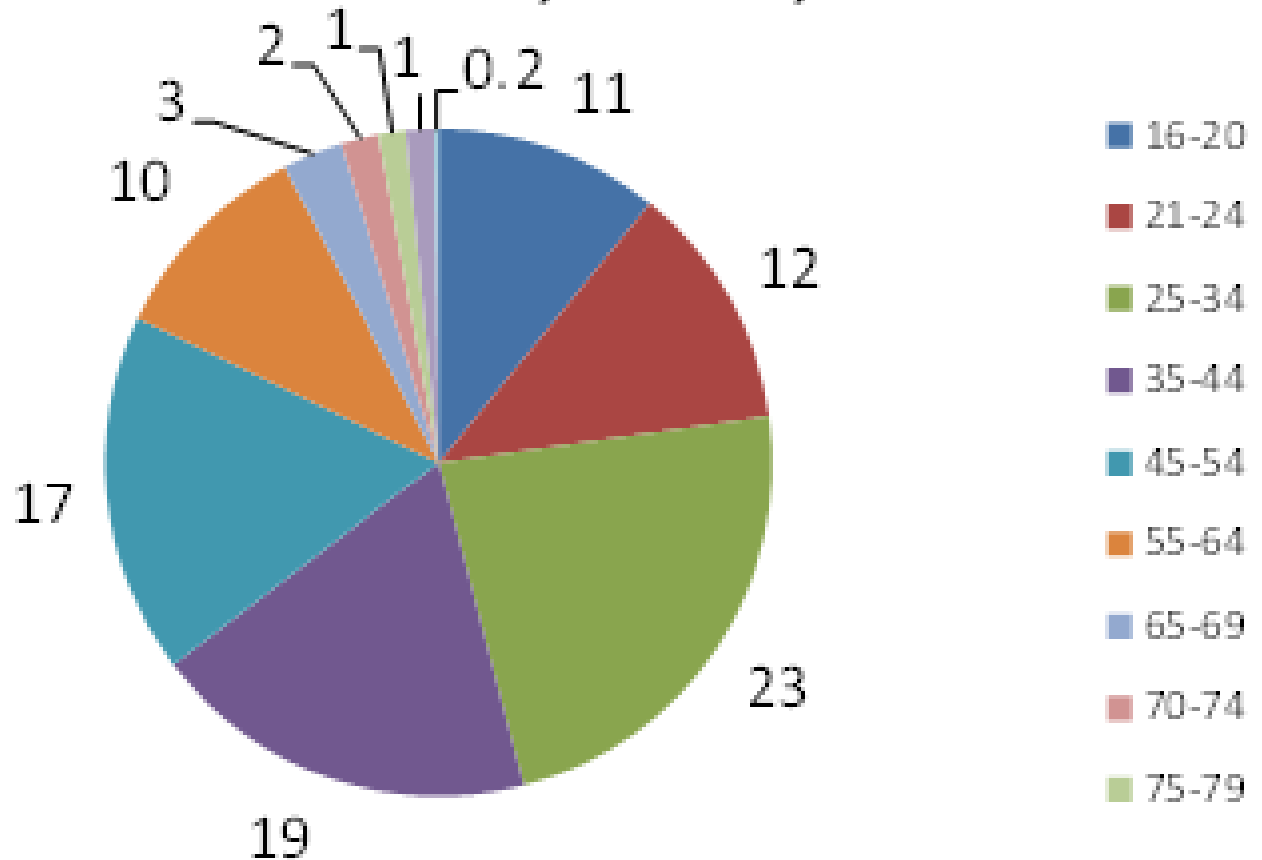


Licensed Drivers by Age - Percentage of Change 2000-2013



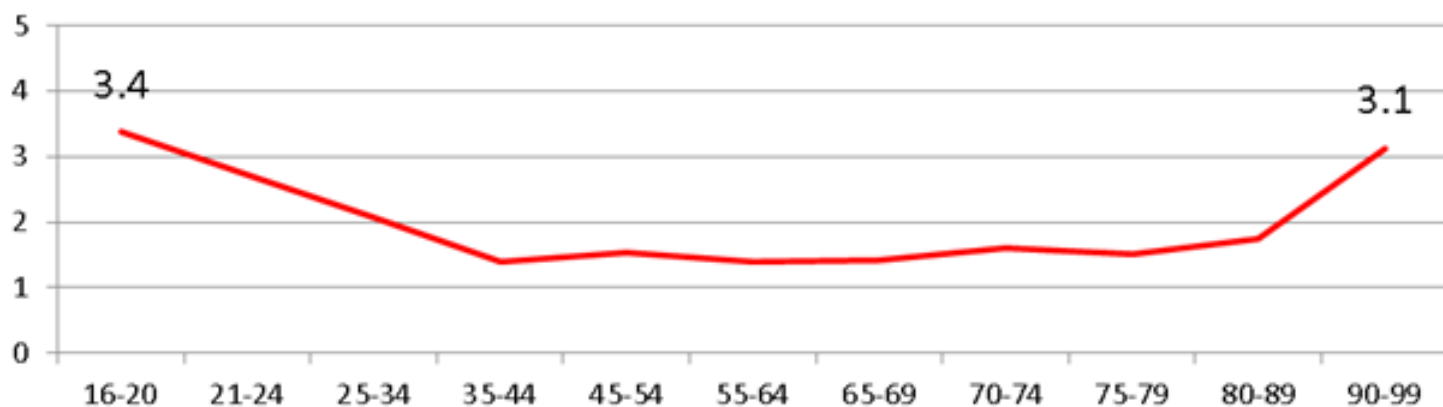
Crashes in Maryland for older drivers

Driver Involvement by Age, 2009-2011, N=418,123



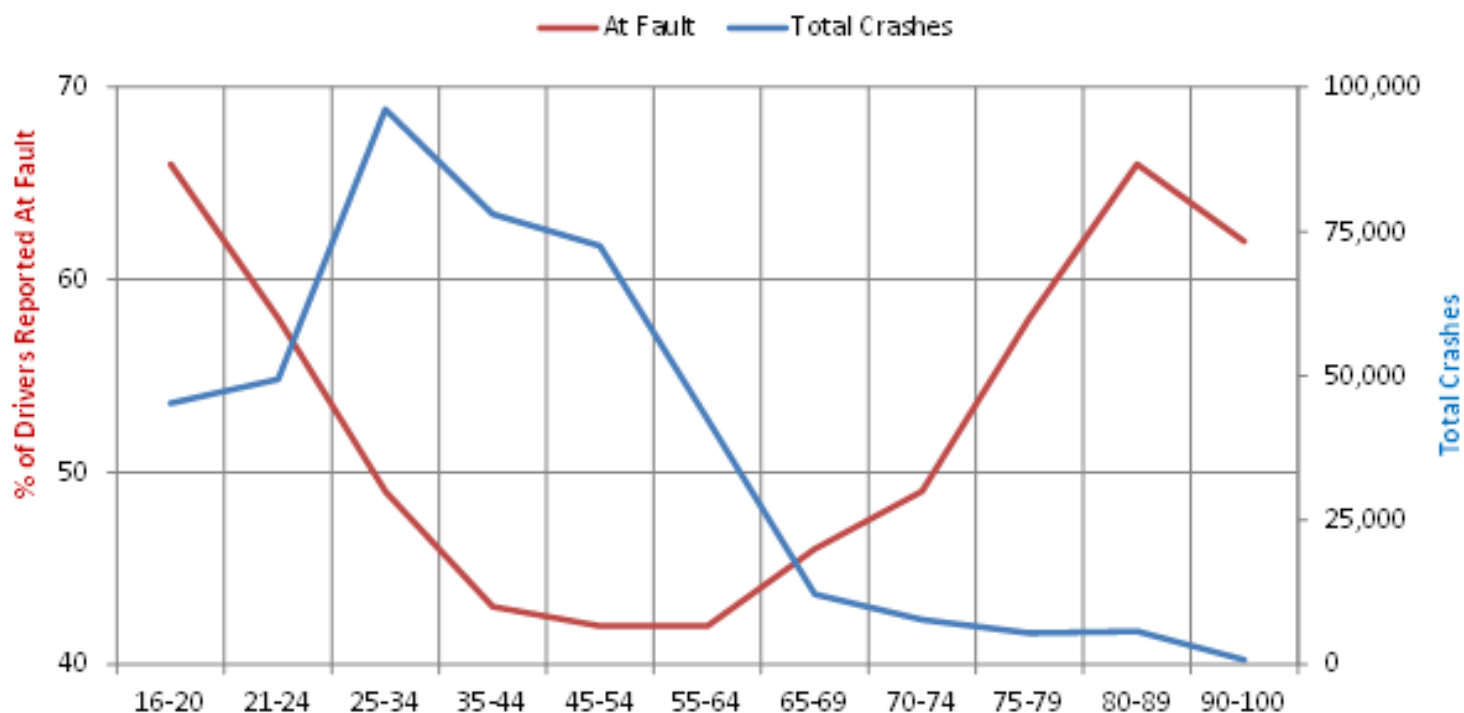


Fatal Crash Rate per 10,000 Licensed Drivers by Age, 2009-2011





Total Crashes v. Reported At Fault by Age, 2009-2011



-

Dena Kline Disappearance



Law Enforcement Role

- A source for helpful aging driver information
- Document traffic stops
- Identify and refer at-risk drivers to MVA



Remember

- Today there are more than 29 million older drivers
- Older drivers are the fastest growing population group
- Traffic fatality rate is higher for Older drivers



Testing Your Aging IQ ...

True or False:

**All five senses
decline with age.**

True – All five senses do decline with aging. Vision & hearing are some of the most common issues officers are presented with.



Another Question...

True or False:

Older people are irritable and angry.

False – Personality is not a characteristic of age. Be aware, though, that age-related medical conditions can affect personality.



Just a Few More...

True or False:

Most older persons who suffer from illness or impairments reside in long-term care facilities.

False – Only about 5% are in long-term care facilities. Most older persons want to function independently.



Testing IQ of Aging...

True or False:

Most older persons suffer from some dementia or become senile due to the aging process.

True & False – Only about 10% of those over age 65 are affected by dementia, but up to half of those 85 and older have some dementia. The Alzheimer's Assoc. estimates that 4 million suffer from the disease.



OK, this is it...

True or False:

Law Enforcement as a whole shows no bias towards older drivers.

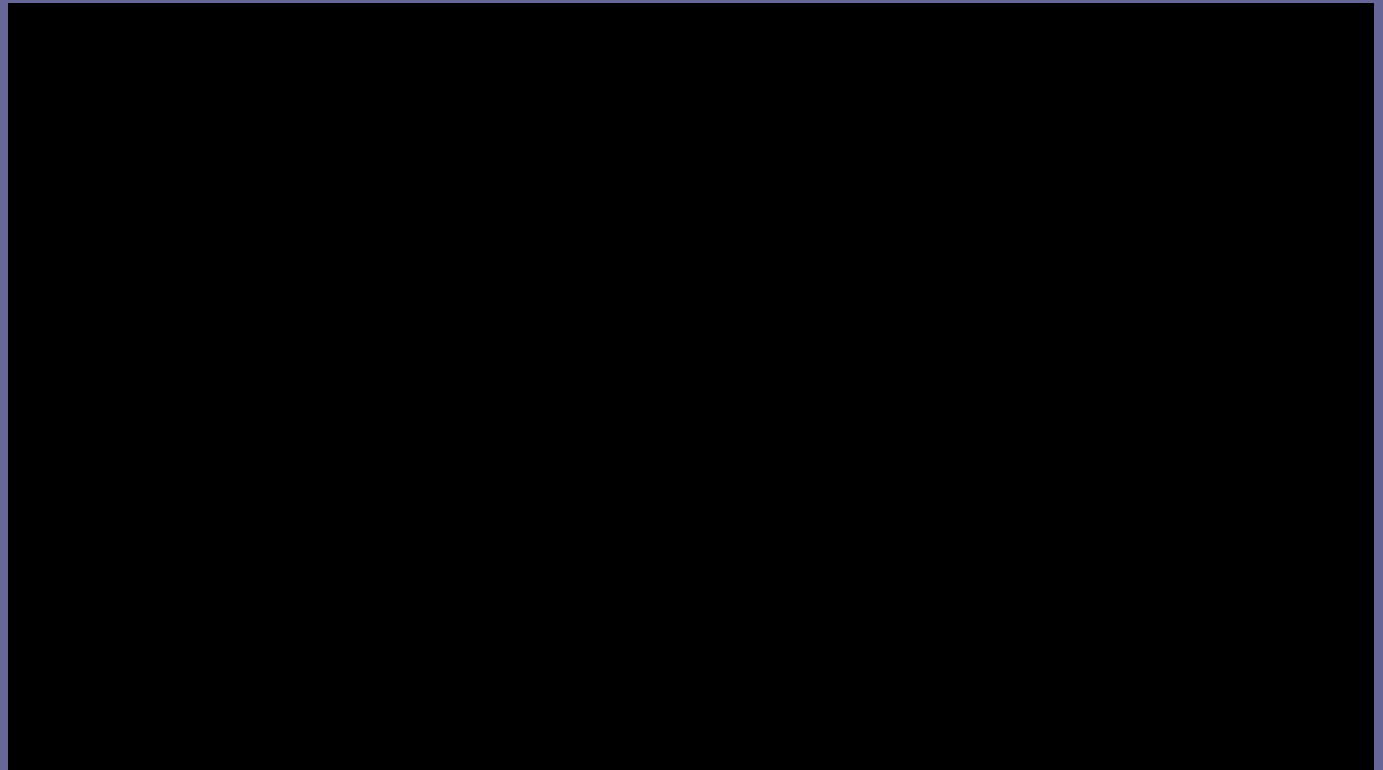
False – Officers often fail to take appropriate action or document encounters with older drivers.



Older Driver Traffic Stops



Video



**Deputy Hit & Run Accident –
78 yr old driver**



The Importance of Stopping Traffic Violators

- What is bias-based policing?
- Who do officers tend to stop?
- What is the philosophy & mission of law enforcement?



Impaired Driving

- Today, more medication is prescribed to older people than to any other age group
- Use the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- Understand the differences between older and impaired



Older Driver Cues for Law Enforcement

- Cognitive impairment can affect driving behavior
- Are you familiar with the cues?



DUI or Medical Condition?

- **Observe balance & fine motor skills**
- **Standardized Field Sobriety Tests have not been validated for individuals over age 65**
- **Make observations while driver is out of vehicle**
- **Can the driver effectively communicate for 10 or more minutes?**



DRIVER ORIENTATION SCREEN FOR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (DOSCI)

RULE OUT

- Intoxication from alcohol, prescription medication, illicit drugs, or other impairing substances
- Urgent medical conditions

Ask ALL 9 Questions: Subtract one point for each incorrect response.

1. **What is your date of birth?** (-1pt.)
Fecha de nacimiento
Month, day, and year required; must match documents.
2. **What is your full home address?** (-1pt.)
Su dirección (número, calle, ciudad, estado)
Address provided must match document; if not, prompt for address listed on documents.
3. **What state are we in now?** (-1pt.)
¿En qué estado se encuentra usted, en este momento?
4. **What city/town are we in now?** (-1pt.)
¿En qué ciudad se encuentra usted, en este momento?
5. **Without looking at your watch, can you estimate what time it is now?** (-1pt.)
¿Sin mirar su reloj, puede decirme aproximadamente qué hora es?
Answer provided must be plus or minus one hour of correct time.
6. **What day of the week is it?** (-1pt.)
¿Qué día de la semana, es hoy?
- 7-9. **What is today's date?**
¿Cuál es la fecha de hoy?
Prompt for month, day and year if needed.
 - **Month (Mes):** (-1pt.)
 - **Day (Día):** (-1pt.)
 - **Year (Año):** (-1pt.)

SCORING CRITERIA

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 5 or more incorrect | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority re-exam • Unsafe to drive; refer to department procedures for alternative transportation and vehicle removal |
| 3-4 Incorrect | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular or Priority re-exam • Potentially unsafe to drive; consider totality of circumstances |
| 0-2 Incorrect | → | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Referral or Regular re-exam based on totality of circumstances |

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASSIST IN EVALUATION

- **Where are you coming from and where you are going?**
¿De dónde viene y a dónde va?
- **Will you please spell your name?**
Por favor deletree su nombre
- **Do you have an emergency contact? What is the name and phone number?**
¿Tiene un contacto de emergencia? ¿Cuál es su nombre y número de teléfono?





Example of
Instructor/Student
Interactive
Older Driver Scenario
(Module 3)

Vehicle Observation

- Visual inspection of the vehicle (interior & exterior)
- Modifications to the vehicle?
- Notes to the driver (reminders)



Documenting the **Traffic Stop**

- Introduction to the driver
- Document all traffic stops in writing (citation or warning)
 - **Why do officers not write citations or RRE's?**



Importance of Documenting?

- Written history
- Important to law enforcement agency; MVA; driver's family/physician
- Tracking history to determine potential unsafe developing patterns

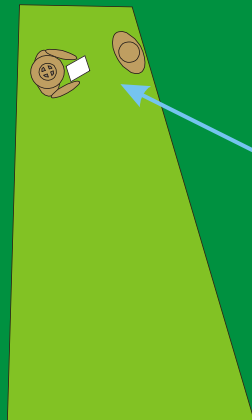
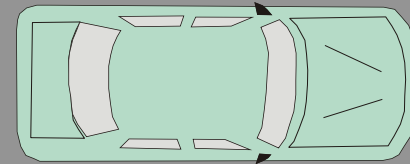
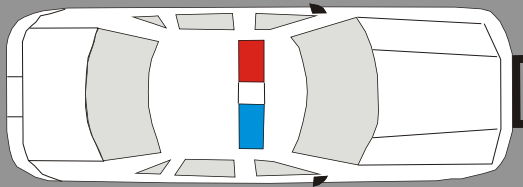


Special Concerns

- **Officer safety is paramount**
- **More officers killed during traffic stops than by felonious assaults**
- **Offenders of all ages have assaulted & murdered police officers**
- **Be aware of medical conditions that may cause individuals to react violently**



SAFER ZONE



- Ford Motor Company's Computer Simulation identified Safer Zone
- Six feet from the passenger door of the patrol car



Referrals



Reexamination Request

Use the form MVA Form **AJ-039**

- **REPORT specific BEHAVIORS you observed**
 - **Physical impairments**
 - **Mental impairment**



TREDS Video





Physical Function "Mr. Smith"



Vision

"Mrs. Jones"

Reexamination Request

- **Avoid reciting only violation codes or statute and ordinance numbers**
- **DO NOT use of jargon or slang**



Discussions

- Give us your thoughts/concerns:
 - What do you need?
 - What will make your actions easier?
 - What information is missing?



Family Referrals

- **Locate the family**
 - Check for cell phone
 - Look for I.D. bracelet
 - Look for documents in the vehicle
- **Families may ask you to intervene with their loved ones**



Community Referrals

- Area Agencies on Aging
- Alzheimer's Association
- Adult Protective Services
- Local Medical Organizations



Referrals to Driver Improvement Programs

- Some drivers need practice or rehabilitation to drive safely
- Driving Improvement Programs are good community resources



Older Driver Community Relations Programs



Partners include:

- Law enforcement management
- Line officers
- The community

Action Plan Worksheet

- **Consider the following:**
 - **Personal interactions**
 - **Policy needs**
 - **Management concerns**
 - **Public information needs**



Course Summary

- How the aging process affects older drivers.
- Effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.
- Appropriate referral options available for older drivers.



Questions



Thank you for your attention.

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